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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

OCT 27 1976

FEDERAL PERSONNEL AND
COMPENSATION DIVISION

B-101892



Mr. Vincent P. Rock
Staff Director
Commission on the Operation
of the Senate
United States Senate

Dear Mr. Rock:

Your August 2, 1976, letter requested us to compile information on pay, allowances, and perquisite benefits to Executive Level I and II positions in the eleven executive departments. During a meeting on September 1, 1976, you specifically asked for information on (1) pay, (2) fringe benefits, (3) special tax adjustments, (4) special training provisions, and (5) the authorization of motor vehicles for Executive Level I and II positions. In addition, you requested information on the official reception and representation allowance budgeted for each executive department.

Pay and most fringe benefits for Executive Level I and II positions are structured similar to those offered other Federal civil service employees. However, certain benefits, such as tax adjustments, training provisions and leave are handled differently for Executive Level I's and II's.

The following summarizes the information you requested.

Salary

Executive Level pay rates are set out in the Executive Schedule 5 U.S.C. 5332. Executive Level I and II rates are \$66,000, and \$46,800, respectively. But the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act limits the actual pay to the rates in effect on September 30, 1976--\$63,000, and \$44,600 respectively.

Health and Life Insurance Benefits

According to the Federal Personnel Manual, Executive Level I and II personnel are eligible to participate in both the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, and the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Program.

FPCD-77-4

Retirement and Social Security

Employees in Executive Level I and II positions are covered by the Civil Service Retirement System according to 5 U.S.C. 8331. They contribute 7 percent of their salaries to a retirement fund in the same manner as most Federal civilian employees and receive an annuity computed on their highest 3 years salary (1 1/2 percent for first 5 years of service; 1 3/4 percent for second 5 years of service; and 2 percent for all years over 10). Executive Level I's and II's are not covered under the social security program for their Federal employment.

Leave

Since Executive Level I's and II's are Presidential appointees, they are exempt from the annual and sick leave provisions for Federal employees set out in 5 U.S.C. 6301. However, employees in Executive Level I and II positions are accountable to the President for their work and leave time.

Special Tax Adjustments

Presidential appointees who are domiciled in the District of Columbia, but maintain a permanent residence outside the District of Columbia are not considered residents of the District, and as a result are not required to pay income taxes to the District of Columbia (47 D.C.C. 1551c).

Special Training Provisions

The provisions of the Government Employees Training Act (5 U.S.C. 4102), are not applicable to Executive Level I and II positions. As a result, they are not eligible to participate in training programs for Government employees.

Transportation Services

The use of passenger vehicles is limited exclusively "for official purposes" with minor exceptions for consular officials and employees between domiciles and places of employment (31 U.S.C. 638a). Those not subject to this limitation are the President, heads of executive departments (Executive Level I positions), ambassadors, and other principal diplomatic and consular officials. Departments and agencies may authorize vehicles to high agency officials (including Executive Level II) under a policy which allows any use of a vehicle to be considered official use.

B-101892

Official Reception and Representation Funds

Each executive department budget has funds for official reception and representation expenses. These funds are usually included in the appropriation for the Office of the Secretary, and are utilized at the discretion of the Secretary. A summary of the official reception and representation funds budgeted for each of the eleven executive departments is included as enclosure I.

We have discussed this information with a member of your staff who indicated that it was sufficient for your purposes. We trust that this information will be of assistance to the Commission.

Sincerely yours,

H. L. Krieger

H. L. Krieger
Director

Enclosure

ENCLOSURE I

OFFICIAL RECEPTION AND REPRESENTATION
FUNDS FOR ELEVEN EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS
FISCAL YEAR 1977

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Agriculture	\$ 4,000
Commerce	\$ 1,500
Defense	Not available ^{a/}
Health, Education and Welfare	\$ 7,500
Housing and Urban Development	\$ 2,500
Interior	\$ 2,000
Justice	\$ 2,500
Labor	\$ 7,500
State	\$2,000,000 ^{b/}
Transportation	\$ 27,000
Treasury	\$ 15,000

^{a/}The FY 1977 United States Budget does not list the official reception and representation funds for the Department of Defense.

^{b/}22 U.S.C. 1131 authorizes the use of allowances to provide for proper representation of the United States in the conduct of diplomatic relations with foreign countries.